CHAPTER 4 - THE MASTER OF THE MANOR

OKAY, TAKE CARE OF THINGS WHILE I'M GONE.

AND PLEASE, KEEP AN EYE ON MEL.

She's still just a child.

OKAY.

And also,

YOU HAVE A STERN FACE, TRY NOT TO FRIGHTEN HER.

But this is my natural expression...

... I'LL TRY.

Am I really that scary?
STARE
CliCK
MEL-
Where's she going?
walk
walk
... I'll watch over her in secret.
Try not to frighten her.
hmm

She's cleaning the pigeon coop...?
Hm?
SNEAK
COO
COO
COO
CREAK
COO
That broom...
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
SWEEP
SWEEP
It must be hard for her to clean with a broom made for an adult. In the storage room, there should be a...
STEP
SNEAK
SNEAK
THUNK

KYA!
GASP

WHERE'D THIS SMALL BROOM COME FROM...?
Haah

PECK
Oi, new girl,
COO COO
There's not enough food!
OW!
PECK
Bro, let's get her!
COO
IT HURTS!
STOP, PLEASE!
PECK

COO

Those damn pigeons!
snap

SFX: GLARE
I'll make you into fried pigeon!
Wah! The master!
STARTLE
She's here!?
TURN
TURN
SILENCE
?
Haah...
HOW ARE YOU, MR. CHICK?
RUN
A chick...?

HERE, I BROUGHT SOME LEFTOVER BREAD FROM BREAKFAST.
RUSTLE
chirp
chirp
chirp
chirp
PECK
EAT UP.
PECK
RUN RUN RUN
That's not a pigeon...
SFX: SHUT

chirp?
Like I thought, I've never seen that chick before.
Mel must've brought it here.
APPROACH
I don't know if it's a good idea to leave the chick with the pigeons...
STARE

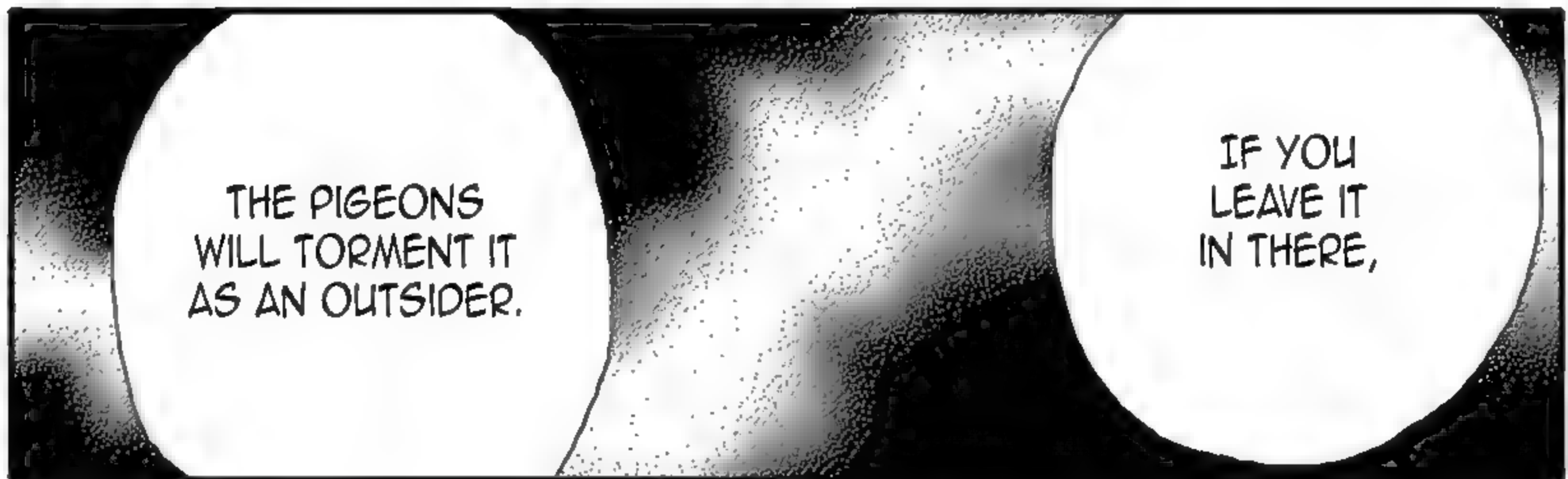
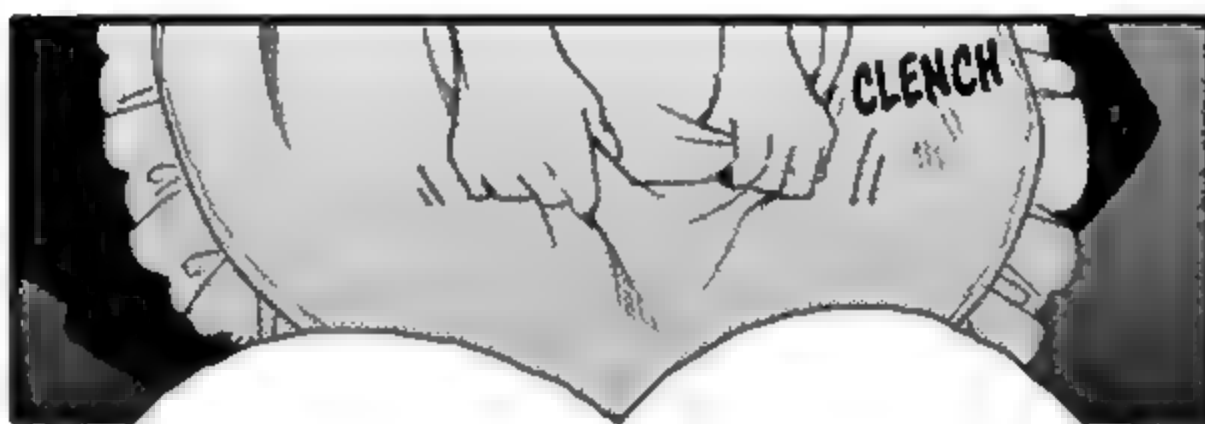
CREAK
KNOCK KNOCK
COME IN.
CLICK
MASTER, I BROUGHT YOU SOME WATER.
I'll just leave it here.

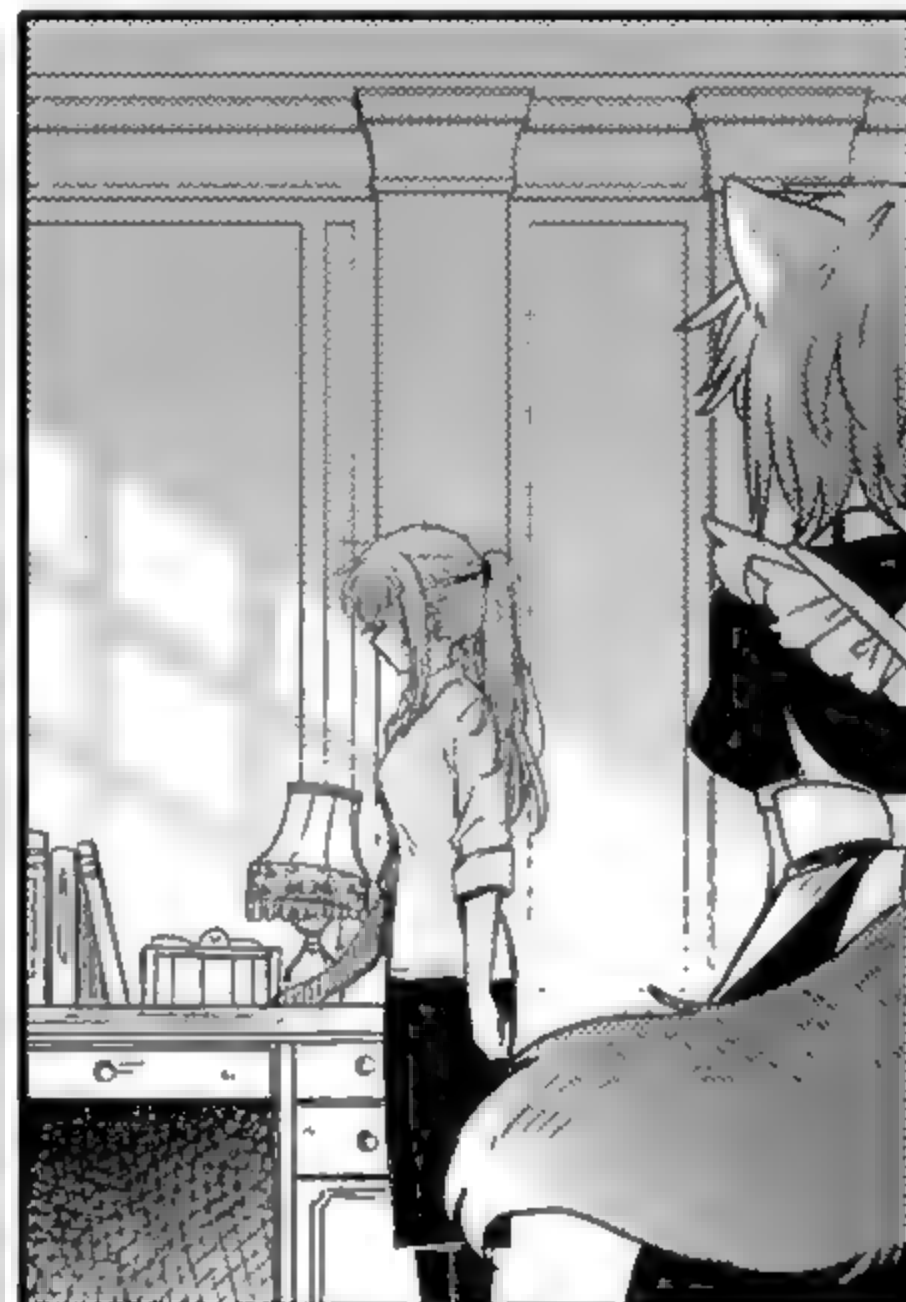
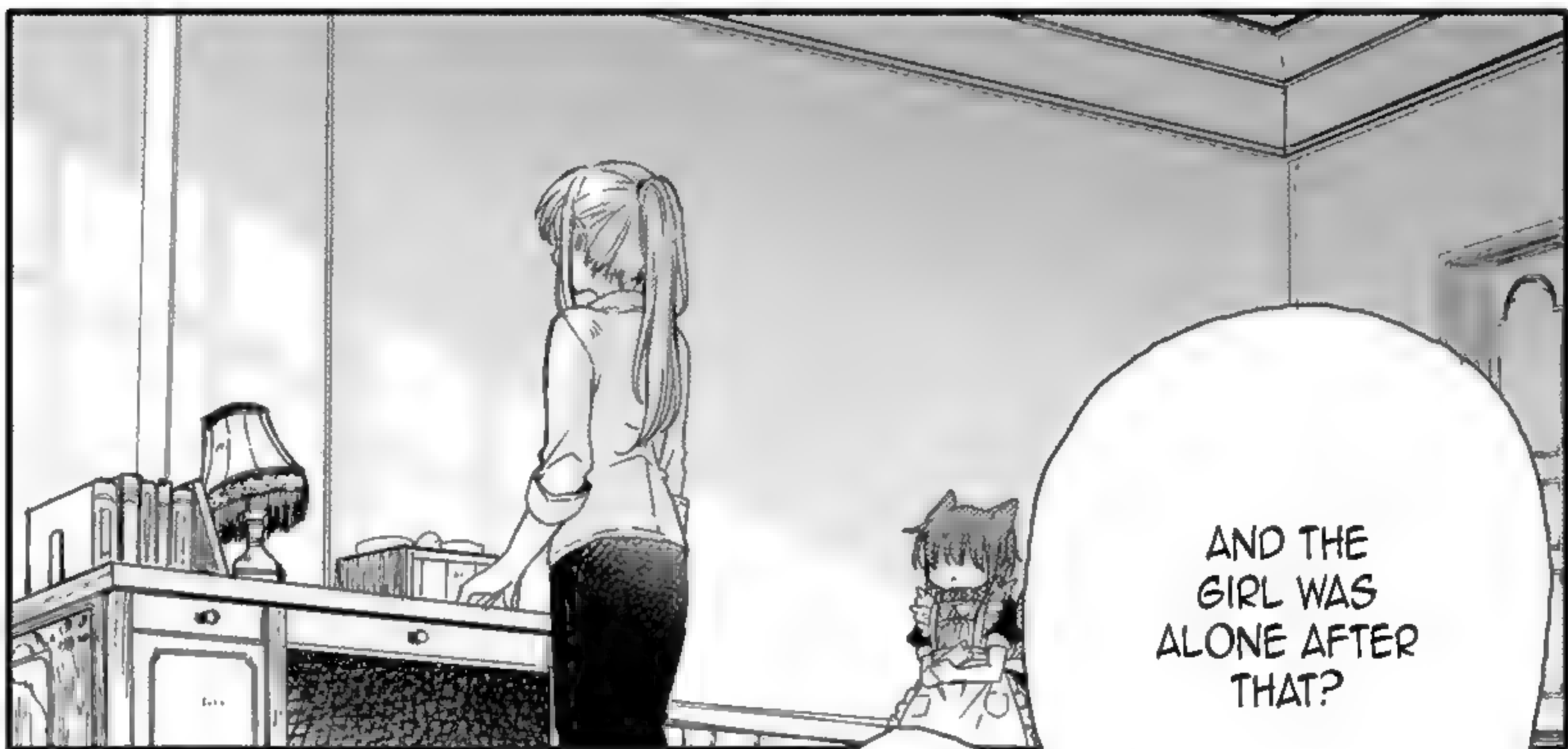
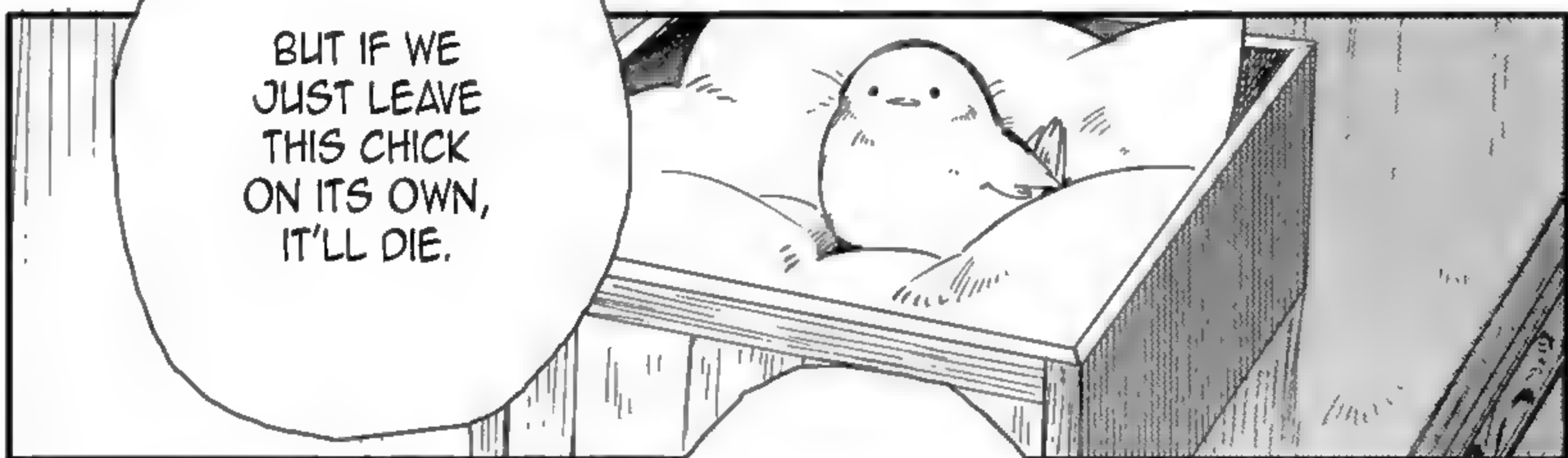
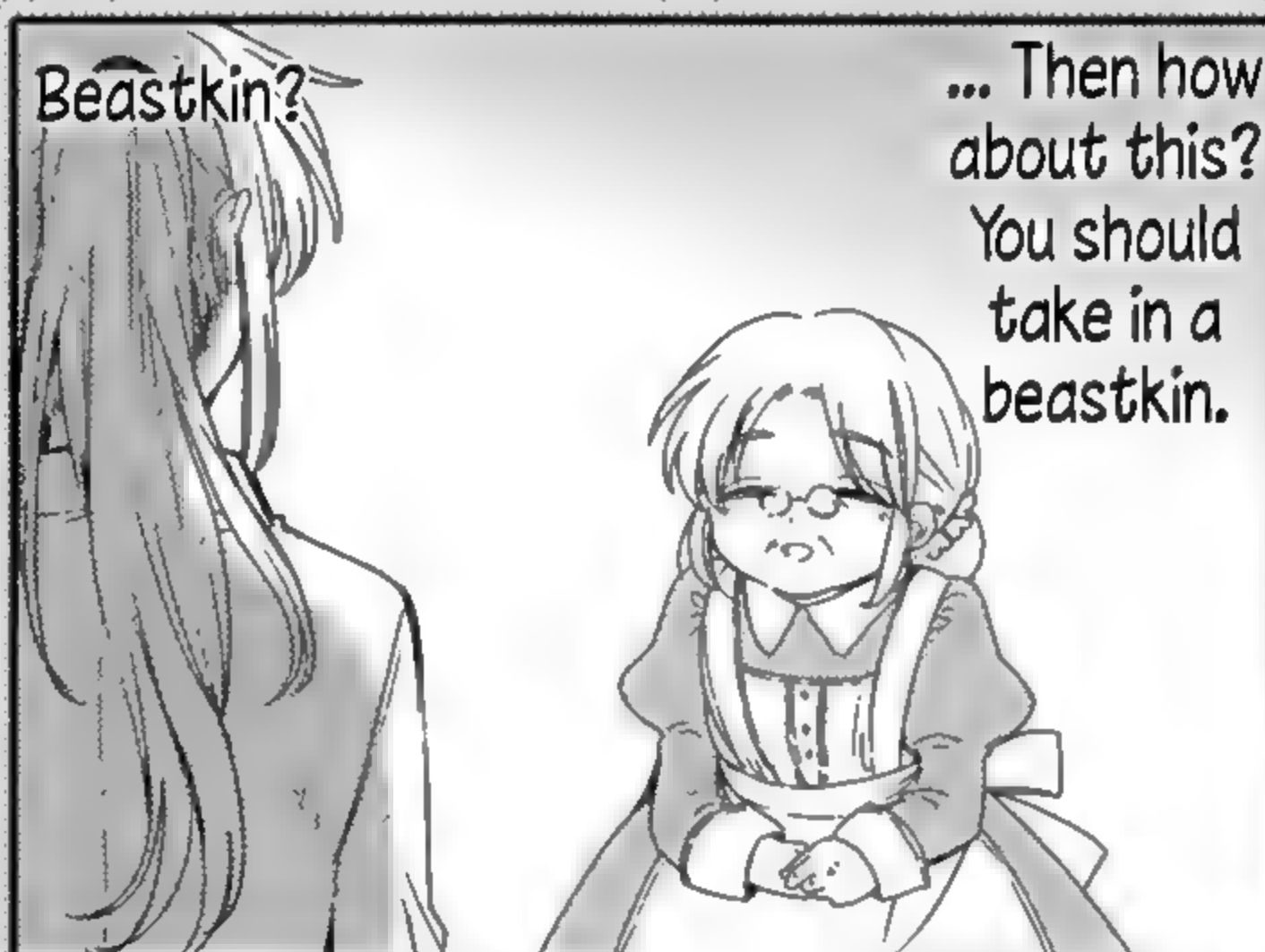
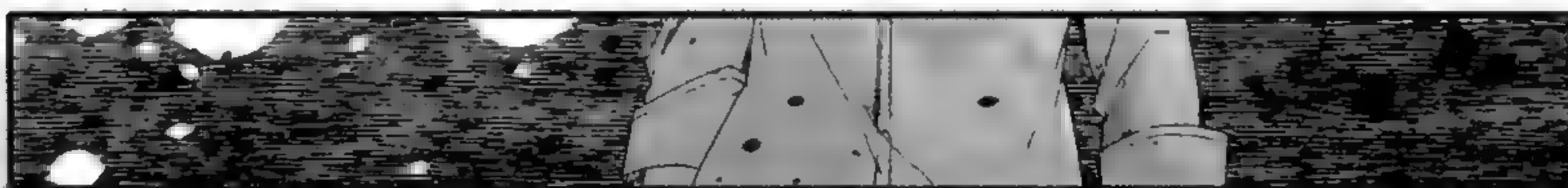
... MEL,
ABOUT THIS BIRD...
GASP
WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?
LAST NIGHT... IN THE WOODS BEHIND THE MANOR,
IT WAS HURT, LYING AT THE BASE OF A TREE.
chirp
chirp
I can't see its parents anywhere.

I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO RAISE IT IN THE PIGEON COOP.

IF YOU LEAVE IT IN THERE,
THE PIGEONS WILL TORMENT IT AS AN OUTSIDER.

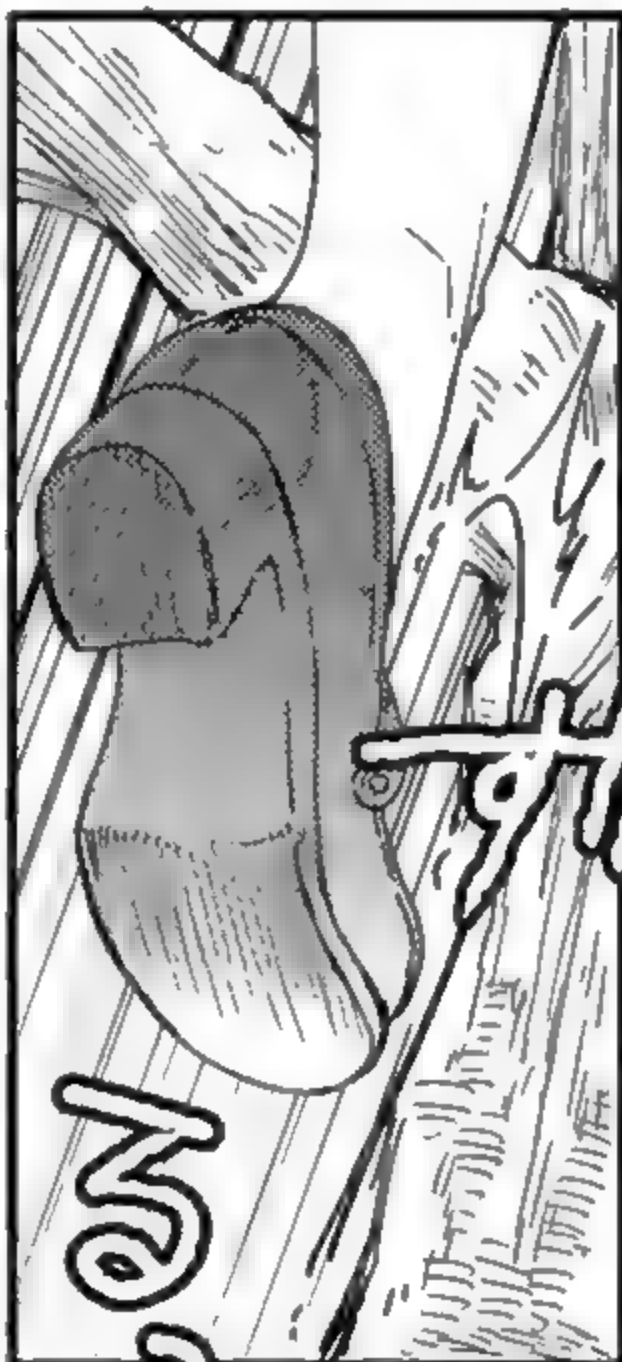
BUT, SURELY HE AND THE PIGEONS
CAN GET ALONG...
THEY CAN'T.

THEY JUST CAN'T, MEL.

CLENCH
ANIMALS... NO, NOT JUST ANIMALS,
ANIMALS AND HUMANS ALIKE SHOW INCREDIBLE CRUELTY TO THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT.

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT A LITTLE GIRL WHO LIVED IN THIS MANOR A LONG TIME AGO.
THIS GIRL WAS AN ORPHAN, BUT SHE HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO BE TAKEN IN BY THE COUPLE WHO LIVED HERE.

AND SO, THE GIRL LEARNED TO NEVER TRUST ANYONE. NOT THE PEOPLE AROUND HER, NOT EVEN HER BEST FRIEND...

AND THE GIRL WAS ALONE AFTER THAT?
YES.
BUT IF WE JUST LEAVE THIS CHICK ON ITS OWN, IT'LL DIE.
THAT'S THE WAY THE WORLD IS.

Will I
be alone
forever?
THAT'S TOO SAD.
I DON'T WANT THAT...
MEL!!
SFX: DASH
SFX: GRAB

I'd like you to find someone

you can trust completely once more.

MEL-
MEL!!
I said all that without thinking...
I THOUGHT I'D TRY LOOKING BEHIND THE MANOR, BUT WHERE IS SHE?
Hah
Hah
Hah
I hope she didn't go too far...
SFX: HURRY
SFX: GASP

MEL!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
PLEASE, COME DOWN!
SFX: SLIP
SFX: DIVE
WATCH OUT!
KYA!

SFX: THUD

My Back...
MASTER! I'M SORRY...

DISHEVELED
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING ON DOING WITH THAT CHICK?
THERE'S A NESTING HOLE UP THERE...
I THOUGHT I COULD RAISE IT THERE.

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FEED IT?
I'LL COME EVERY DAY.
SFX: SWELLING
MASTER, BEFORE YOU SAID THE GIRL HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BE ALONE.
I KNOW HOW PAINFUL IT IS TO BE ALONE.
AND THAT'S WHY
I WANT TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE.

PLEASE DON'T BE SO RECKLESS.
I'M SORRY.
GRAB

STING
OW!

YOUR LEG...

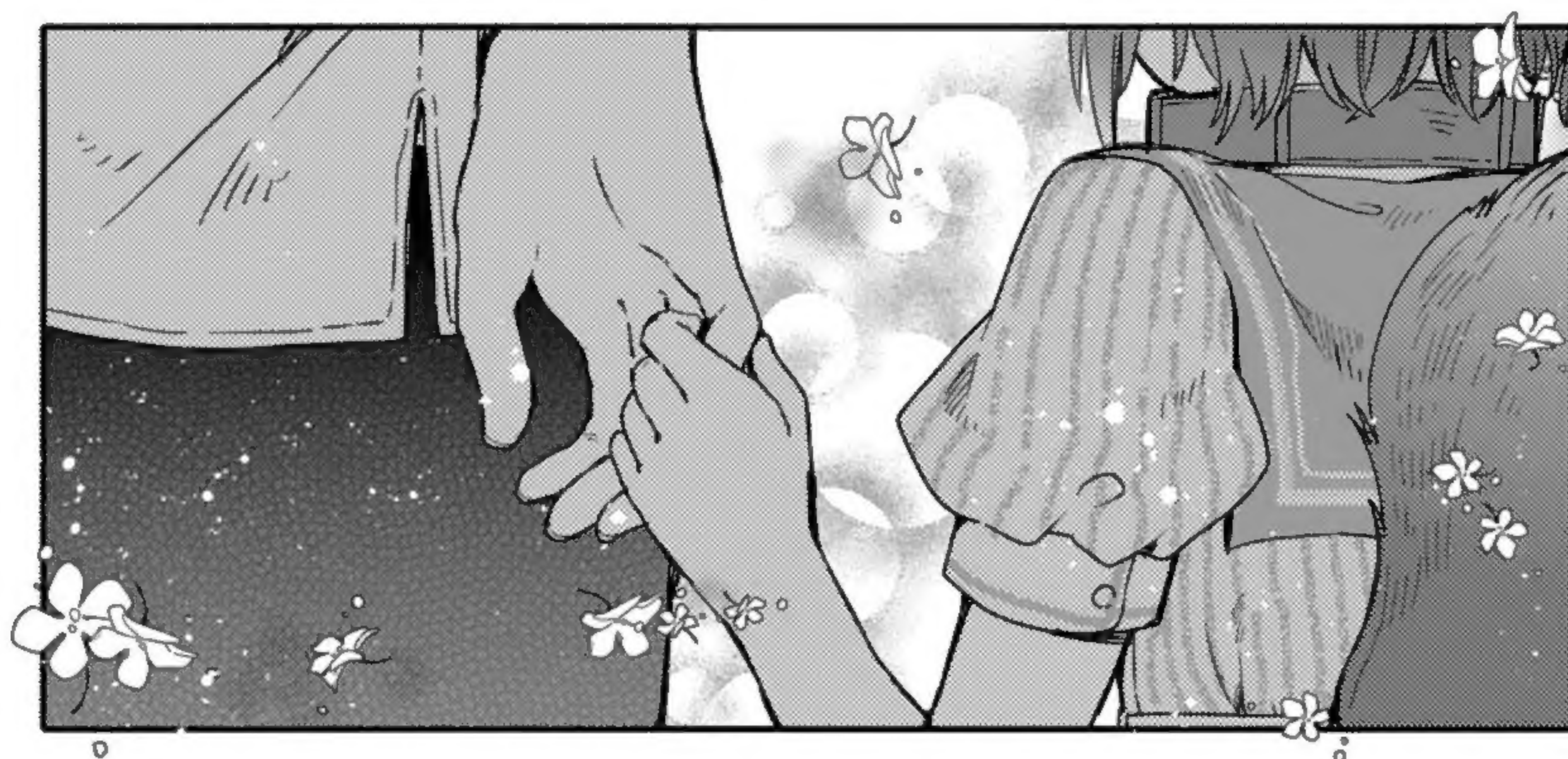
HERE,

HOLD ON.
GRAB
WAH-
SFX: LIFT
ahem
... SO,
COME SHOPPING WITH ME TOMORROW.
WE HAVE TO BUY A BIRDCAGE.
THEN... I CAN KEEP THE CHICK!?
YES.

SNUGGLE

THANK YOU, MASTER.

HUG

THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE SEEN HER SMILE LIKE THAT.

JUNE 23RD

SUNNY WITH OCCASIONAL CLOUDS

MEL FOUND A BABY BIRD.
TO FEED IT, WE WENT
TO GO CATCH BUGS.

AT FIRST, MEL WAS AFRAID
OF THE BUGS, BUT SHE
TRIED HER BEST TO CATCH
SOME. SHE'S AN
EARNEST GIRL.

CHAOSTEAM CREDITS

MASTER:
SHINIGAMI SOUMIASAN

TRANSLATION:
SCHUYGUY

TYPESETTING:
HIME AIHARA

CLEANING/RAWS:
CY DUP

QC:
BUDING

My master &
furry-eared girl Mel